



# City Council Activity Report January 2011

## Councilors

Vaughn D. Spencer, President of Council

Francis Acosta, City Council District 1

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, City Council District 2

Dennis Sterner, City Council District 3

Stratton Marmarou, City Council District 4

Donna Reed, City Council District 5

Jeffrey Waltman, City Council District 6

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## Topics under Discussion and Consideration

### City Business

- City Council worked over two days to prioritize the **City's core services**. Council rated the following as the most important services:

Police - Patrol
Police - Investigate Crime
Police - 911 Emergency
Conduct Enforcement - Zoning
Fire - EMS
PMD - Housing Compliance
PMD - Rental Registration
PMD - Quality of Life
Tax Billing & Collection
Fire - Suppression and Rescue

The City Department Directors are also undertaking the same activity. When they are finished the results will be merged with Council's results to obtain the overall

rating. A similar survey will be placed on the City's website to allow input from Reading Residents. These results will be merged with the combined Council/Department Director results.

- The President of Council and the Mayor have been discussing the re-establishment of the **Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)** as required in the Act 47 Recovery Plan. Council and the Mayor recently agreed to expand the CAB to a 21 member board composed on 14 individuals selected by the members of Council and seven )7) to be designated by the Mayor. The CAB will have quarterly meetings regarding the implementation of the Recovery Plan.
- Representatives of City Council, the Mayor's Office and Reading School District are currently exploring the creation of a **Recreation Commission** to run the City's recreation programs. A similar and successful model is used in Lancaster.
- Council members are providing input on the City's new contract for **property tax billing and collection** by the County Treasurer. Property tax billing will begin in 2011 and collection services are slated to begin 2012.
- **Housing and Economic Development Strategy** – received updates on the development of the Housing and Economic Development Strategies from consultant John Kromer.
- **Review Draft Financial Policies** – continued to review draft financial policies prepared by PFM, Act 47 Coordinator. The Act 47 Coordinator will be providing "threshold" transfer amounts for Council's consideration in early February.
- **Council President, Council Vice-President and City Clerk** attend bimonthly meetings with the Act 47 Coordinator and Administration to discuss and review the implementation of the Act 47 initiatives.

### **Legislation under Consideration**

**Ordinance** - amending the City of Reading Zoning Ordinance codified as Chapter 27 of the City of Reading ordinances to correct typographical errors, adjust and clarify the zoning ordinance adopted July 2010 and to establish requirements for nonconforming use, permit auto repair and car washes as a permitted by right use in the manufacturing-commercial zoning district, to reduce the maximum square foot of a garage /carport in the R-1A zoning district to 600 square feet, to increase the maximum square footage of a garage/carport in a R-1 zoning district to 600 square feet, establish additional requirements for newly built or placed dwelling unit in R-1 zoning district, provide for a maximum percentage of land for parking in front yard in R-2 zoning

district, amend hours of operation for a social club as well as establish minimum lot area, provide maximum number of children in a day care home with lot size of less than 2500 square feet, add Laundromats and personal service businesses by right in C-H zoning district, establish access requirements for multiple occupancy building, limit yard sales to four times per year per lot and two days, authorize council to make modifications of listed requirements through conditional use process, add requirements for operation of a day care, clarify measurements for fence and wall construction, limiting two access driveways, require minimum of five parking spaces for restaurants, taverns and nightclubs, and add definitions (**Law**) **A public hearing was held on Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers. The ordinance is eligible for enactment on February 14<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Legislation Adopted**

- **Resolution 12-2011** – appointing Carl Geffken as the Managing Director and an Ordinance setting the salary of the Managing Director at \$95,500. (Mayor)

### **Committee Discussion Topics**

#### **Finance Committee**

- Assigned **unfinished policy issues** from the 2011 budget discussions to the applicable Council committee.
- Working with the Administration to develop a strategy to collect on these old **unpaid CD loans** made in the 1980s and early 1990s.
- **Act 47** – reviewed progress on the Act 47 Recovery Plan initiatives
- Working with the Administration to **improve collection of Per Capita Tax**

#### **Public Safety Committee**

- Reviewing the Interim Plan for the **transition of the Fire Department** to a new Chief and the transition of Codes to the CD Department.
- Receiving an update of the field testing on the **Quality of Life Ticketing**.
- Review the transition of the Call Center to **the Citizens Services Center**
- Began meeting with members of the Reading School Board and Administration to review **safety issues before and after the school day**.

#### **Public Works Committee**

- Reviewing legislation and **traffic studies for traffic signals and changes** proposed by the Administration.
- Received an update on **RBI and the Great American Clean-up..**
- Review and discuss an MOU for **PermaCultivate**, a non-profit agency focused on urban greening and sustainability issues, who desires to operate from the City Greenhouse in City Park.

- Review **lease agreements** with organizations that use City facilities.

#### **Administrative Oversight Committee**

- **Boards, Authorities & Commissions** – conducted 7 appointment and reappointment interviews and recommended appointment and reappointment, where applicable, to the body of Council.

#### **Hearings & Meetings Held**

- Police Termination Hearings were held on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.
- A Conditional Use Hearing for 123 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street was held on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- A Zoning Amendment Hearing was held on Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Meetings to discuss and define the City's Core Services were held on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.